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New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 5th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. KHAN (Pakistan)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.20 a.m.

GENERAL DEBATE (continued)

1. Mr. AYEWAH (Nigeria) said that there was an ever-widening gap between the developed and the developing countries and that policies intended to globalize the world economy had resulted in a minority of the world's population becoming richer. From the standpoint of the developing countries, the international economic environment was still characterized by falling commodity prices, dwindling resource flows, absence of investment, restrictions on the transfer of technology, unpredictable global monetary and financial systems and a crushing external debt burden.

2. African countries in particular were experiencing an economic and social crisis which, in conjunction with the natural disasters which had afflicted the continent, had made them extremely vulnerable. The United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development had failed to achieve its objectives, and it was doubtful whether the New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s would fare much better judging by the lack of importance attached to the project by the international community.

3. He therefore welcomed the Secretary-General's initiative concerning the elaboration of an agenda for development. Development should be viewed from a multidimensional, comprehensive and action-oriented standpoint. It presupposed acceptance of the concept of global interdependence based on the political will to promote international economic cooperation. The agenda for development should result in a global partnership for development in which United Nations agencies should play a central role. It therefore seemed essential that the Second Committee should launch an intensive process of dialogue between the developed and the developing countries in a mutually beneficial partnership in order to implement the resolutions that had been adopted.

4. The promotion of economic growth in developing countries necessitated the establishment of an international trading system which enhanced market access to the exports of those countries and improved and stabilized commodity prices. The Nigerian delegation welcomed the conclusion of the Final Act of the Uruguay Round and hoped that the establishment of the World Trade Organization would facilitate trade liberalization, the opening up of the international market and the elimination of protectionism.

5. The issue of environmental protection was also critical to development. On the eve of the adoption of the International Convention to Combat Desertification, a review of the implementation of Agenda 21, which was adopted at Rio, indicated a decline in its flow of resources. He hoped that a better fate awaited the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and the Programme of Action adopted at the Conference on Population and Development. In like manner, he looked forward to a purposeful outcome of the meeting of the Parties to the Convention on Biological

Diversity, to which Nigeria was a signatory, the World Summit on Social Development, the Fourth World Conference on Women, the Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), and the Programmes of Action that would result from those conferences.

6. Mr. SUCHARIPA (Austria) said that economic growth was steadily gaining momentum as shown by macro-economic indicators and the upward revision of estimated GDP growth by the relevant international organizations. Some developing countries had shown growth that far surpassed that of the developed countries.

7. However, that verdict should not hide the fact that the economic experiences of various countries were becoming increasingly differentiated. The situation of the least developed countries, particularly in Africa, deserved the utmost attention of the international community. Austria attached particular importance to the situation of countries in transition and their full integration into the world economy. Some of them had already shown signs of recovery, but as a group they had suffered from further decline and their populations had made considerable sacrifices to establish a market economy. The international community therefore had to make concerted efforts to help those States face the problems they had encountered, because in the long term their integration into the world economy would foster peace and stability in the world. In that context he noted that Austria's assistance to those States had been achieved without a decline in the assistance it had always provided to traditional developing countries.

8. Discussion of the agenda for development had made it possible to further shape the concepts that related to it and to define the approach that had to be taken in that sphere. Development had often been perceived in narrow terms as economic growth. It was currently appreciated that sustainable development should be human-centred, not simply through the creation of employment opportunities and access to education, health and a clean environment, but also through respect for human rights and economic and political freedoms.

9. It was Austria's strong belief that the United Nations was fully able to fulfil its task in that process in close interaction with the United Nations specialized agencies and the Bretton Woods institutions. The reform of the Economic and Social Council and the revitalization of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations had yielded their first important results. The Austrian delegation, together with the delegations of the Russian Federation and the United States of America, had introduced a draft resolution at the most recent session of the Council concerning modalities of reporting in the above-mentioned fields. That draft was currently before the General Assembly. He hoped that it would lead to an extensive discussion and result in measures for enhancing the role and capability of the Secretariat. Furthermore, the Austrian delegation believed it would be useful to consider measures that would bring greater focus to discussions in the Second Committee.

10. Mr. LONDOÑO (Colombia) said that it was true that the world economy had shown signs of improvement, but the recovery remained fragile. The growing

interdependence of countries and the globalization of the economy had not bridged the gap between industrialized and developing countries. The fact that a limited number of countries decided the crucial issues of the international economy had had extremely unfortunate repercussions for the rest of the world. The decisions taken by the seven major industrialized countries, like the vast majority of the decisions taken by the Bretton Woods institutions, had essentially suited the needs of the developed countries and were taken without considering the interests of the developing countries. While structural adjustment had been presented as a cure-all for the woes of developing countries, the industrialized countries had done nothing to tackle the problems preventing a return to genuine economic expansion. By suppressing the distortions in their economies, eliminating protectionist barriers and ensuring transparency of their markets, they would free a considerable volume of resources that could be used to boost the world economy.

11. Trade constituted an essential component of cooperation. The conclusion of the GATT Uruguay Round had made even more evident the imbalance between increasing trade liberalization in the developing countries and neo-protectionist tendencies in the developed countries. The latter, using the fight against dumping and the protection of the environment as an excuse, had changed the nature of the comparative advantage principle, the only instrument available to developing countries to achieve a more equitable participation in international trade. In the financial field, it was disturbing that certain industrialized countries continued to bow to pressure to reduce the amount of assistance given to developing countries. Not only should that tendency be reversed, but the decision-making process in the multilateral financial institutions should be democratized, and the resources destined for operational activities undertaken by United Nations bodies should be increased. The role of the United Nations in the field of science and technology should be strengthened, and the key role of the State in promoting scientific development in the transfer of technology should be acknowledged. The euphoria which had followed the adoption of Agenda 21 had quickly dissipated in the face of the restrictions imposed by developed countries on the supply of financial resources and the transfer of technology. The Commission on Sustainable Development should devote itself to obtaining tangible results in that field.

12. The preparation of an agenda for development had given rise to great hope. It was important, however, that specific conditions in each country should be taken into account. Any attempt to impose rigid formulas risked hampering the efforts of developing countries and might adversely affect the growth of the world economy. The text which was to be adopted should take into account all aspects of development, especially economic, social, environmental and institutional factors, and the social dimension should be its cornerstone. Until poverty, hunger, illiteracy, the population explosion and environmental degradation were dealt with, freedom, democratic participation and justice would have little meaning. The economy must be made to work for the benefit of mankind and not vice versa.

13. Now that ideological and political barriers had fallen, the time had come for a genuine commitment to the harmonization of interests and coordination.

Otherwise, a new hierarchy would be established, and the vast majority of countries would find themselves marginalized. International dialogue should henceforth be based upon the democratization of economic relations and on a consensus as to the very idea of development. A new language should be used: that of cooperation and solidarity. Only in that way could a harmonious and peaceful transition to multipolarity be effected.

14. Mr. ABDELLAH (Tunisia) said that the historic changes on the international stage had brought about a revival in North-South relations, and a greater economic and political interdependence. New perspectives on international cooperation were opening up, giving rise to the hope that new relationships would be made, based on solidarity and an equilibrium of interests between States and regional groupings.

15. Despite certain positive signs, renewed growth was very unevenly distributed and offered no security guarantees. The chasm between developed and developing countries continued to grow wider, with the developing world becoming increasingly marginalized where international trade, the monetary system, financial questions, technology and debt were concerned. The developmental wager was made even more complex by the fact that the global environment was marked by severe competition between all countries to capture markets, attract external investment and promote technology. Developing countries would only be able to exploit the new opportunities which were available if they knew how to adapt to the financial, commercial and technological changes which characterized economic activity on the world scale. Stability, security and development were a collective responsibility, and the policies of the rich countries should take that factor into account. A reduction in inequalities would have positive consequences in the medium and long term for the donor countries themselves, as markets opened up, investments yielded returns and immigration and its accompanying problems diminished.

16. Sustainable development was one of the primary preoccupations of mankind, and demanded a comprehensive solution. Various international meetings in the near future would provide an occasion to finalize and go more deeply into the strategies, plans of action and principles which had been adopted at the World Conference on Human Rights, the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and the International Conference on Population and Development. Those meetings would be part of the action taken in order to formulate a universal agenda for world development. In that respect, the Secretary-General's initiative had offered an opportunity to discuss strategies which could ensure the economic take-off of the developing countries. The agenda for development should be action-oriented, imbued with a spirit of partnership and take sufficient account of national specificities. To be effective and sustainable, it had to end the fundamental inequalities and reduce the enormous gap separating the countries of the North from those of the South.

17. The critical situation in Africa demanded a much greater commitment from the international community. The majority of African countries, in the course of the four previous years, had experienced negative growth, despite the remarkable efforts made by implementing structural adjustment programmes. The

situation had continued to get worse because of the debt burden, the low prices of raw materials, the deterioration in terms of trade, the decline in official development assistance and private aid, and the negative transfer of resources. The President of the Republic had appealed to the leaders of the seven richest countries as they met in Naples, to pay attention to the preoccupations of the African continent and increase the aid which they gave to it, within the framework of a global development strategy which would permit the countries of the continent to clearly define their economic plans.

18. Human rights and the rights of the generations to come could only be respected if mankind found a way to safeguard the environment and to trigger sustainable development. Tunisia had, very early on, begun to preserve its own environment and to contribute to international efforts in that field. It had, for example, appealed to the creditor nations to recycle developing countries' debts through environmental projects. Increasing interdependence made it imperative to find a universal solution to that most complex of problems.

19. The developing countries should coordinate their efforts and plans, by consolidating regional groupings. The establishment of close cooperation and complementarity would lead to economic integration and usher in a climate of security, stability and agreement. It was for those reasons that Tunisia paid close attention to the building and strengthening of existing relations between the Maghreb, European, Mediterranean and African regions. The globalization of the economy required a global and integrated approach to problems faced by the whole world, in a spirit of solidarity and with a sharpened sense of the collective interest. It was, therefore, urgent to develop and implement policies based on economic partnership, mutual development and the joint management of political and economic problems, so as to ensure prosperity and well-being for the whole of mankind.

20. Mr. SAMANA (Papua New Guinea) said that while much had been achieved in the past 30 years in the area of development, particularly in science and technology, the benefits had not been equitably divided. On the political and economic levels, the world continued to be divided into rich countries and poor countries, a polarization which seriously threatened human survival and the maintenance of security and peace. The United Nations was the only multilateral institution capable of forging an international consensus with a view to resolving the numerous global problems. Enhanced international cooperation would, through a restructuring of international investments and trade, permit political and social imbalances to be eliminated. International economic, trade and investment policies should be improved, and domestic policies should be focused on productivity and economic performance.

21. The consideration of macroeconomic issues, particularly those relating to the implementation of the policies agreed upon in the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries and the implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade, was extremely crucial as regarded the strengthening of regional economies, the improvement of support from the United Nations agencies,

capacity-building and technology transfer. Paramount importance must be attached to each country's priorities; otherwise, a lack of absorptive capacity would prevent the transfer of technology and the promotion of trade and investment from playing an effective role. Development policies and strategies must therefore be adapted to the particular problems of different countries and regions.

22. His delegation hoped to see the strengthening of regional economic integration and welcomed the technical and financial support provided by the United Nations system in that area. None the less, countries must also invest in human capital and in technology and infrastructure development in order to enhance their competitiveness. The implementation of strategies designed to promote regional economic integration and South-South cooperation in such fields as human resource development, trade and investment and technology transfer should accompany a sustainable and productive development process. The South Pacific region was endowed with vast marine-based resources and had great potential in the areas of agro-forestry and agro-industry which, if exploited in an environmentally sound manner, should enable it to contribute to the strengthening of international development cooperation.

23. The guiding principles set forth in an agenda for development and An Agenda for Peace provided an overall framework for the efforts of developing countries to improve the economic and social situation of their peoples.

24. Mr. OWADA (Japan) said that the economic development of the developing countries also benefited the developed countries by contributing to the expansion of the global economy. None the less, growing differences among the developing countries themselves were becoming apparent. Thus, while many countries of Asia were experiencing rapid economic growth, those of the sub-Saharan region continued to suffer from poverty and underdevelopment. Concurring with the view of the Secretary-General that development efforts must respond to particular national needs and priorities, his delegation believed that a differentiated approach should be promoted and that different methods should accordingly be devised, taking into account the respective needs and stage of development of the recipient countries. Under that approach, such initiatives as the UNDP country study should be promoted.

25. Such a differentiated approach should none the less be coupled with a comprehensive approach, taking into account not only financial assistance and debt relief but also such factors as trade, direct investment and technology transfers. Consideration should also be given to ways and means of improving the social infrastructure of the countries in question, which covered such areas as basic education, job training and health. In that context, Japan had made every effort not only to increase the volume of its official development assistance (ODA) but also to diversify its end uses. Whereas the total volume of ODA had decreased by more than 10 per cent between 1992 and 1993, Japan was one of the rare donor countries which would allocate nearly $75 billion to ODA during the period 1993-1997.

26. At the International Conference on African Development, held at Tokyo the year before, participants had recognized that, while no development model could be transferred from one region to another, South-South cooperation between Asia and Africa would be extremely useful. The Tokyo Declaration, issued by the Conference, had stressed the interest shown by some Asian and African countries in promoting such cooperation. In the context of the follow-up of the Tokyo Declaration, Japan and Indonesia, with the support of the United Nations and UNDP in particular, would convene an Asia-Africa Seminar on South-South Cooperation in December 1994 in Indonesia. In that context, the United Nations should convene meetings of experts to study ways and means of promoting such cooperation.

27. Consideration must also be given to ways of channelling resources which had thus far been allocated to the military sector into development projects. In the context of its official development assistance, Japan had decided to take account of trends in the recipient countries with respect to military expenditures, the production of missiles and weapons of mass destruction and the export and import of arms. It would serve the interest of peace and development if other donors followed a similar policy. The reconversion of military industries would be an acute problem for the major arms manufacturers. The operation would require substantial investments and would result in unemployment, but it was necessary in order to maintain global peace and stability. His delegation therefore hoped that the issue would be a focus of the discussion on an agenda for development.

28. Japan believed that it had a leading role to play in environmental and sustainable development activities at the international level. In that connection, it was willing to share the experience and know-how it had acquired in pollution control. Regarding the follow-up of Agenda 21, it welcomed the progress recently achieved on the elaboration of an international convention to combat desertification in those countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa, and the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States. The work of the Commission on Sustainable Development had been particularly fruitful in that regard and Japan was determined to cooperate with it.

29. As the population problem was one of the major obstacles to the economic and social development of the developing countries and to the preservation of the global environment, his delegation welcomed the Programme of Action adopted by the International Conference on Population and Development held at Cairo. That success, however, should not overshadow the fact that its implementation would require considerable efforts by all parties. Moreover, a review conference on the follow-up of the Cairo Conference would most likely have to be convened before the year 2004 in order to ensure the effective implementation of the Programme of Action. In that connection, as part of its ODA programme, Japan had resolved to allocate approximately $3 billion for the period 1994-2000 to cooperation with developing countries in that area.

30. The success of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction would depend on the implementation of the Plan of Action adopted by the World

Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction, held at Yokohama in May 1994. It was to be hoped that the General Assembly would adopt the draft resolution submitted by the Economic and Social Council, which endorsed the outcome of the Conference and urged all Member States to act with resolve in implementing the Plan.

31. The United Nations must continue to improve its structures and functions in order to cope effectively with economic and social problems on a global scale. The Economic and Social Council must be strengthened as a centre for the coordination of United Nations activities in those fields. In particular, the activities of the various organs should be re-examined with a view to streamlining their work. The activities of the United Nations in the field of development should be based on clearly defined priorities and should be action-oriented. Member States should strive to achieve a consensus on priority projects, based on a realistic assessment of their feasibility and taking into account the capacities of the United Nations.

32. Mr. GALLEGOS (United States of America) observed that the programme of work of the Second Committee was growing vigorously and commended the division of labour between the Committee and the Economic and Social Council. At the recent session of the Council, his delegation had sponsored a draft resolution calling for criteria to promote fewer, more concise Secretariat reports, and hoped that it would be adopted at the current session. The Committee's general debate was redundant and too long. In addition, more economic issues were being taken up directly by the plenary Assembly, which distracted the Committee from its immediate tasks. Moreover, the delay in the preparation of documentation did not permit a meaningful general debate at the current stage.

33. His delegation would take note of the outcome of the UNCTAD World Summit on Trade Efficiency to be held at Columbus, Ohio, and hoped that the Committee would adopt a draft resolution taking note of that meeting and supporting the technical contributions which UNCTAD might make.

34. He also welcomed the support given to another initiative launched by his Government, entitled "Global Learning and Observations to Benefit the Environment (GLOBE)"; under that programme, schoolchildren, educators and scientists all over the world would work together to study the global environment so as to enhance public awareness of that issue.

35. Mr. HUDYMA (Ukraine) said that the world political situation had improved over the past few years and that the very notion of "cold war" had become obsolete. International economic relations had also changed considerably. Having got rid of ideological dogmas and prejudices, countries had adopted a pragmatic approach in that regard. Notions of cooperation and partnership for peace were becoming increasingly important. The organic ties between peace, development and democracy were now recognized. Economic growth was the driving force behind development and without such growth it was impossible to solve related problems, including ecological and demographic ones. However, growth, which should not be considered as an end in itself, could only be achieved if at least two conditions were met: the establishment of an appropriate economic and

political climate at the national level and the creation of a favourable international climate.

36. His country had firmly opted for a market economy but the transition process was long and fraught with difficulties. In that context, he welcomed the fact that the problems of States in transition were being gradually incorporated into the multidisciplinary activities of United Nations agencies. His delegation intended to deepen cooperation in that field. That was why it would like the General Assembly to take more effective measures in order to promote the integration of countries in transition into the world economy. It seemed, however, that donor States, having declared their support for the implementation of reforms in countries in transition, were too cautious in providing financial resources for specific projects and confined themselves to giving moral support to reformers while providing a disproportionate amount of assistance to one country. In order to accelerate the transformation process, the developed countries should open their markets to products from the States in transition, as that would increase foreign investments in those States.

37. The Uruguay Round had resulted in the signing of the Marrakesh Agreement. The establishment of the World Trade Organization (WTO) was proof that protectionist measures would no longer affect conditions for the transformation of the economies in transition. Ukraine welcomed the establishment of WTO and intended to accede to the GATT/WTO system. It hoped that the system would contribute to the promotion of trade liberalization and the creation of an open and transparent trading system and would facilitate access to the world market of exports from countries in transition.

38. His country also advocated wider cooperation with the Bretton Woods institutions. Realizing the seriousness of the country's economic and social situation, the Government, with the cooperation of IMF experts, had established a programme for overcoming the crisis and promoting macroeconomic stabilization.

39. His country was committed to actively participating in the implementation of economic and technical programmes carried out within the framework of the United Nations system. In that connection, it would be advisable for economic programmes to be oriented more specifically to the needs of the economies in transition because given the level of development of their infrastructure, positive results could be obtained within a short period of time. The integration of those States into the world economy would free additional sources of financing for development. In that regard, the activities of UNDP, UNICEF and the other United Nations bodies in the States in transition should be more specific and more pragmatic. Ukraine highly appreciated the activities of the United Nations/UNDP office at Kiev and supported the idea of transforming the UNDP division for the promotion of activities in Central Europe and in the countries members of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) into a regional bureau.

40. The Secretary-General's report entitled "An Agenda for Development", which was the logical sequel to the Agenda for Peace, was commendable. It drew a comprehensive, complex and controversial picture of the modern world and

proposed a philosophical perception of the dominant world trends and forces. New ideas and proposals which would supplement the document should be considered. In particular, the creation of machinery which would permit the implementation of the report's conclusions and recommendations should be considered. It was necessary, for example, to consider submitting to the Security Council periodic reports on the economic and social situation of countries in various parts of the world which were potential threats to international peace and security. Such reports would considerably enhance the preventive function of the United Nations.

41. The International Conference on Population and Development, convened recently in Cairo, had been one of the major events of the current year. It had shown once again that there were no universal methods for settling democratic problems. Every country had to bear responsibility for its own social, economic and demographic development. The United Nations and international institutions should limit their role to preparing guidelines and promoting machinery that would help to solve population and development problems.

42. While his country's situation was difficult because of the economic crisis, economic reform was nevertheless one of his Government's major priorities. The ongoing economic and social transformations were aimed at building a society with a multistructural economy targeted to the social sector with the State promoting the interests of workers. The main measures taken recently with a view to the country's economic recovery were aimed at stabilizing production, controlling inflation and preventing a decline in the population's level of living. The legislation in force had been reviewed so as to create a propitious climate for investments and attract financial resources from Western countries. The improvement of currency regulations would permit the unification of the official exchange and market exchange rates of the karbovanets.

43. The adverse impact of sanctions against Yugoslavia on the States of the Danube region was another issue of vital importance to his country. Ukraine had to shoulder a very heavy financial and moral burden as a result of those sanctions. It was losing its traditional commodity markets, its economic links with its regional partners had been severed and it was assuming additional responsibility for the application of the sanctions, which also called for the mobilization of considerable resources. The losses sustained by Ukraine as a result of sanctions had amounted to $4 billion in 1993. He noted that the provisions of General Assembly resolution 48/210 concerning economic assistance to States affected by the United Nations sanctions against Yugoslavia had yet to be implemented.

44. The United Nations would celebrate its fiftieth anniversary in 1995. The deliberations of the Second Committee constituted a stage in the improvement and coordination of new proposals for the future. The sustainable development of all nations could be achieved only through the joint efforts of all States to establish a mechanism for equitable partnership. Ukraine therefore proposed the adoption of a document on partnership for development that would call upon all States to abandon suspicion and mistrust, to strengthen international justice

and equal rights and to proclaim the importance of equitable relations in the economic and related fields.

45. Mr. KALPAGE (Sri Lanka) recalled the many problems currently facing the international community. After the 1980s, which had been a lost decade for development, trends for the 1990s were not very encouraging: growing instability, uneven development, slow economic recovery and rising unemployment in the industrialized countries. Per capita income had declined in many developing countries, the number of least developed countries had increased and a "fourth world" was being created, concentrated in Africa.

46. That situation was to a large extent the product of inappropriate policies in the industrialized countries and weaknesses in the economic structures and development strategies of developing countries. Surmounting that crisis required a partnership built on mutual trust and understanding.

47. The relationship between the industrialized countries and the developing world had resulted in inequities, growing protectionism, the debt crisis and an international division of labour that was detrimental to the developing countries. Growth in developing countries could boost the exports of industrialized countries, demonstrating the need for the international community to establish a new partnership for sustainable development.

48. In order to attain that objective, an enabling environment must be created both locally and internationally and a durable solution must be found to the problem of inadequate resources and technology for development. A fundamental restructuring of the international economic system and reforms of the international financial, monetary and trading systems should accompany arrangements to facilitate the flow of resources and technology to developing countries.

49. The Uruguay Round negotiations had resulted in the conclusion of the Marrakesh Agreement, which should eliminate barriers to developing country exports and promote trade, a major source of financing for self-reliant growth and sustainable development.

50. It would take low-income countries a long time to take advantage of expanding trade opportunities because they did not have the necessary infrastructure to attract investments for export diversification. They also suffered from structural weaknesses such as excessive dependence on primary commodities and experienced rapid population growth. In the case of Sri Lanka, the external debt service payment in 1992 had been 17.1 per cent of total export earnings. External support in the form of debt relief was needed. A concerted effort must be made to address that issue in order to solve the problem of development financing.

51. The international community was currently looking for ways to strengthen the role of the United Nations in development and was focusing attention on An Agenda for Development. In order to expedite development, an integrated

approach must be taken to addressing the problems he had mentioned. The world's increasing interdependence made that a necessity.

52. Mr. GERVAIS (Côte d'Ivoire) said that the Committee faced a daunting task in confronting the world's current economic and social challenges. He emphasized the relationship between development and peace and said that Côte d'Ivoire had based its development on the concept of peace: the resolute search for peace was linked to the concept of development. Unrest and conflict had well-known causes - poverty, hunger, fear, injustice, exclusion, ignorance and intolerance - and the main goal was to find ways of advancing the well-being of humankind through the eradication of poverty, misery and war.

53. His country endorsed all the decisions adopted with a view to the revitalization of international economic cooperation and had high hopes of forthcoming international meetings (World Summit for Social Development and Fourth World Conference on Women), which were part of the broad movement to restore international economic relations in order to promote sustainable human development based on solidarity.

54. His country attached particular importance to the concept of solidarity, which it saw as a true partnership between developed and developing countries, based on respect for their mutual interests. The Head of State of Côte d'Ivoire had proposed that the international community should proclaim an international year of universal solidarity, in order to affirm the need for greater involvement of both developed and developing countries in action to promote development.

55. Political will on the part of Governments was needed to ensure sustainable development. No progress could be made in any of the aspects of development listed in An Agenda for Development - economy, environment, justice and democracy - without a minimum of solidarity among the various partners.

56. His delegation also believed that it was essential to innovate and to rethink relationships in order to permit the implementation of active policies that would lead to development. A new approach was needed to major international meetings, to prevent their conclusions from being forgotten once they had been adopted.

57. In conclusion, he called on the Committee to give serious consideration to the debt question. Irrespective of the numerous solutions that had been proposed, it was necessary to move beyond the stage of purely financial calculations in order to solve that difficult problem. There again, it was solidarity that must be affirmed first and foremost. The Committee's efforts should address all those aspects.

58. Mr. CAMACHO OMISTE (Bolivia) said that Bolivia had always supported resolutions which aimed to promote the development and growth of all countries, particularly the least developed countries. However, the efforts made by many countries had been thwarted by the negative attitude of other countries which, because of their level of industrial development and their technical and

financial capacities, should contribute more effectively to achieving the common objectives of mankind.

59. There were a number of negative factors hindering development, including limited access to international markets for the export products of developing countries, rigidities of the international financial system, the progressive decline in financial resources devoted to technical cooperation, the low level of net transfers of capital and technology and the foreign debt burden.

60. Bolivia called on the international community to accelerate economic and social development; the Agenda for Development should play a primary role in that area and provide inspiration for future action that would engender hope and solidarity. Bolivia, for its part, had launched a plan for popular participation so as to increase employment opportunities and was hoping that civilian society would assess its needs and propose adequate solutions. To that end, it was currently reforming the structures of the State and reorienting its public policies. The establishment of the Ministry of Human Development was part of that process. The priority areas of the new social policy were education and culture, health and nutrition, sanitation, urban development and housing, employment, income and support for the population. Bolivia was also firmly determined to fulfil the commitments it had undertaken in respect of environmental protection and the rational use of natural resources. A ministry had been specially established to that end. Bolivia had also ratified several multilateral conventions on those issues recently.

61. At the same time, Bolivia was launching an innovative capitalization programme designed to promote large-scale investment. It hoped to attract a capital flow of $3 billion over future years. The success of that project would depend on support from multilateral credit agencies and bilateral cooperation bodies.

62. In the context of strengthening economic cooperation for development, Bolivia was participating in various integration programmes in the Latin American region. It also placed great hopes in the new World Trade Organization, which would begin to operate shortly and should make it possible to resolve many problems deriving from trade inequality. Bolivia also attached particular importance to South-South cooperation and believed that it offered enormous possibilities for the development of trade, the improvement of physical infrastructure, food security and scientific and technological cooperation. Bolivia would therefore continue its firm support of the Group of 77 and the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries.

63. In conclusion, he said that international cooperation was not only a question of solidarity, but also an objective necessity for promoting the interests of all countries, without which it would be impossible to ensure international peace and security. Cooperation was also a right and a legal obligation under the Charter and many international instruments. The end of the cold war should, for the first time, make it possible to achieve those objectives.

64. Mr. NDEREBEZA (Rwanda) said that his Government was grateful to the international community for its concern about the tragedy Rwanda had recently undergone. His Government was now trying to promote national reconciliation through the establishment of a state of law, true democracy, independent and transparent justice, and the return of refugees under the Arusha Peace Agreement.

65. Major efforts needed to be made for reconstruction and recovery because the entire economic and social infrastructure had been destroyed. Schools, clinics, hospitals and factories had been looted or wrecked. The Rwandese, who were mostly farmers, had not been able to work on their lands since April; the exoduses of people had disturbed the environmental balance, and made reafforestation necessary; agricultural tools, fertilizers and seeds were in short supply and there continued to be an urgent need for food aid. Industrial production units had been destroyed or vandalized. Rwanda also had no electricity, which paralysed normal operations. Children, the numerous victims of war, deserved special attention; schools needed to be reconstructed and students encouraged to resume their studies, which was difficult because many teachers had been killed or had gone abroad. The former government, after carrying out full-scale genocide, had appropriated public funds and property, depriving the administration of the supplies that were essential to its proper functioning. Rwanda had nothing, since the war had devastated everything. The Rwandese people, however, were determined to work to re-establish the administrative institutions and relaunch the economic and social development of their country. The cooperation of the international community would be essential in that effort.

66. At the current session, many delegations had expressed sympathy for the Rwandese cause. In that context, his delegation would request the Committee to consider a draft resolution on international assistance for reconstruction and rehabilitation in Rwanda that it would be submitting, and it hoped that it would be given favourable attention. His delegation also wished to thank the Secretary-General for the invaluable assistance provided to Rwanda since the beginning of the crisis, in October 1990, and welcomed the role played by UNDP in coordinating humanitarian aid and economic and social assistance. It was encouraging to note that, in his interim report (S/1994/1133), the Secretary-General indicated that the United Nations would continue its efforts to provide an appropriate framework for coordination of humanitarian assistance and the transition to reconstruction and development; he had also urged donor Governments and international bodies to ensure that their programmes of assistance for Rwanda were implemented urgently; help the Government re-establish its administration; and help the Government resolve the problem of its arrears with the World Bank, so as to secure access to the resources of that institution.

67. His delegation conveyed the thanks of his Government to the States and organizations that were present in the field; to those which were making major efforts at the financial and material levels; and to those which were providing contingents to the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda.

68. Mr. KHANI (Syrian Arab Republic) said that the developing countries must prove that together they had the ability to confront the political and economic changes which had taken place at the international level, and go beyond mere egotistical considerations and the service of narrow interests. That need was all the greater since the industrial countries were continuing to accord only scant attention to the problems of developing countries. The hope that ties of true partnership, which could strengthen international cooperation, would be established at the international level had not always been achieved because the developing countries were continuing to experience many difficulties and still had a marginal place in the international economy. In that respect, the resumption and enrichment of North-South dialogue were the best means of finding an equitable solution to the economic problems in the world, strengthening the ties of solidarity within the international community and responding to the fundamental aspirations of the inhabitants of the world. His delegation, which had followed with great interest the work of the Conference of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the member States of the Group of 77 held on 24 June 1994, the thirtieth anniversary of the Group, believed that that was the best forum for promoting North-South dialogue and, hence, strengthening South-South dialogue while helping to accelerate the development of the South. Furthermore, the strengthening of coordination and cooperation between the Group of 77 and the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries could be extremely beneficial for developing countries. The principle of the right to development, which had been endorsed at the World Conference on Human Rights, was of crucial importance for international economic cooperation. His delegation and the delegations of other member States of the Group of 77 therefore intended to follow very attentively the debates on that issue.

69. Noting that developing countries were continuing to suffer from underdevelopment, poverty and unemployment, he urged the international community to find solutions which would make it possible to resolve those problems in an appropriate manner so that developing countries could join in the world economy, occupy their rightful place in world trade and take full advantage of scientific and technical progress.

70. Syria, which had always been a crossroads of commerce between East and West and sought to preserve that glorious heritage, could boast of major accomplishments in the area of development, and the economic policies it had adopted showed that it had the will to participate actively in international economic life. The structural adjustment measures it had taken had yielded decisive results and enabled it to mobilize the country's productive resources effectively within a short time. Every country must be free to choose the path that best served its interests and best fit its situation, provided it respected the decisions and policies of others. To make development aid and trade concessions conditional on the implementation of specific policies was incompatible with the democratic principles to which Syria strongly adhered. Indebtedness, the collapse of commodity prices, insufficient foreign aid and reluctance on the part of private investors had had deleterious effects on the Syrian economy which a true spirit of cooperation ought to mitigate.

71. The Syrian Ministry of the Environment and the other bodies with responsibilities in that area laid great stress on environmental protection, an issue as important as growth, and were working, with the help of international organizations, on developing legislation in that area.

72. Mr. CALOVSKI (the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) observed that the world economic and political climate had changed and called for new approaches from the international community, based on the concept of interdependence and incorporating the results of the recent conferences in Rio de Janeiro, Vienna and Cairo and the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations. An agenda for development constituted the most important instrument in that undertaking. The success of the World Summit for Social Development, to be held in Copenhagen, and the Fourth World Conference on Women, to be held in Beijing, would be crucial in that regard. The Committee should give priority to those issues during the present session.

73. The report on an agenda for development, a document which his delegation felt to be of the utmost importance, should be action-oriented; it should define the subject and prepare principles of action. It should be made the principal instrument for development in the years to come. It was essential in that regard that the international community should demonstrate the political will needed to change things for the better; the Committee's deliberations should reinforce that determination. Since it would be impossible to complete consideration of an agenda for development at the forty-ninth session, the best approach would be for the General Assembly to adopt a resolution or statement that would serve as a basis for a declaration on development, to be adopted at its fiftieth session, in which it would endorse an agenda for development. The document could thus reflect the results of the World Summit in Copenhagen, the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing and the work of the World Trade Organization.

74. If the General Assembly adopted a resolution or statement at its forty-ninth session, it should state that development should contribute to the advancement of all peoples; that interdependence should be the guiding principle in international relations; that the role of the United Nations should be strengthened; that the central purpose of development should be the dignity and welfare of the human person; and that the Charter of the United Nations and international law must be respected.

75. Further, the General Assembly, determined to promote sustainable development in all parts of the world, should call, inter alia, for the following: an end to all armed conflicts; the elimination of obstacles impeding development; the development of good-neighbourly relations; the acceleration of all regional and global integration processes; the adoption of concrete measures to eliminate poverty; the liberalization of world trade; international financial support for development; honouring of the commitments undertaken in the field of the environment and development; the promotion of cooperation among all partners for development; and the most efficient utilization of the United Nations system for development.

76. Macedonia, a small country in transition which had opted at independence for a market economy, the rule of law and democratic development, was facing serious problems resulting from the situation in its immediate environment, that is, the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the negative effects of the United Nations sanctions against Yugoslavia and in particular Greece's denial of its right as a land-locked country to use Greek ports, a measure which was aimed at destabilizing the country. The international community's response to that situation had thus far been limited to mere declarations. It was urgent that the Security Council should take steps to put an end to the strangulation of the Macedonian economy resulting from the deliberate policy pursued by Greece and the failure to take any action to help his country, which was most severely affected by the sanctions against Yugoslavia.

77. While the Committee's agenda included many important issues on international economic cooperation, there were some topics that deserved priority; they were trade and development, regional and global integration, the elimination of protectionist measures, the external debt crisis and the social aspects of sustainable development.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.